BOOK REVIEWS

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Endovascular surgery, 3rd edition

Wesley Moore, Samuel S. Ahn; Philadelphia; 2001; WB Saunders; 412 pages; $199.00.

Endovascular Surgery, 3rd Edition, edited by Dr Wesley Moore and Dr Samuel Ahn, is a comprehensive review of endovascular surgery. Prior books of similar scope and prior editions of this book have suffered from the embryonic nature of endovascular surgery. Until recently, the field has undergone such explosive growth that too many of the chapters were well out of date by publication. The rapidly occurring advances in catheter-based technologies have therefore made the writing of a clinically useful text in this field a significant challenge. This is perhaps the first comprehensive endosurgical book to be published at a time where the specialty of endovascular surgery has reached a certain maturity to allow this book to be useful.

Dr Moore's succinct outline of the history of catheter-based treatments and the dilemma that faces vascular surgeons as they integrate these procedures into a vascular surgery practice is well worth reading. The significance of the book's title and its origins are clearly described. What's in a name? Lots.

Although many endovascular texts written predominately by vascular surgeons are often weak on technical details and basic catheter skills, the book does an admirable job at the fundamentals, including an excellent chapter on radiation safety. Most of the technical chapters, such as "Arterial Access" by George Andros, are of sufficient detail with clear illustrations to be useful to the entry-level endovascular surgeon and fellows. The chapter on "Balloon Angioplasty Catheters" by Peter Schneider is typical of the instructive graphics found throughout this edition, which take advantage of this full-sized book.

Endovascular Surgery is so far the best attempt at a comprehensive endovascular text written predominately by vascular surgeons defining the scope of this subspecialty within vascular surgery. Drs Moore and Ahn with their authors have succeeded in mixing a core of basic catheter base skills and imaging techniques with advanced procedures to make this a valuable resource for both the endovascular surgeon in training and those with a well-established endovascular practice.

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Carotid duplex ultrasonography: Extracranial and intracranial

Michael R. Jaff, Serge Kownator, Francois Luizy; Armonk, NY; 2001; Futura; $149.00

This is a review in CD-ROM format of carotid and transcranial duplex ultrasonography. It addresses the basic anatomy, pathology, and duplex techniques for the aortic arch and its branch vessels, the extracranial carotid arterial system, the intracranial internal carotid, and the circle of Willis. A preevaluation and a postcompletion test are included. The CD-ROM format allows for real-time imaging of the duplex findings, including B-mode and Doppler. The authors are able to show details of patient and probe positioning as part of the video imaging. The quality of the duplex images is good. Both normal images and pathology are nicely displayed, and there are case reports that illustrate the basic information provided.

The level of information provided is introductory, and as such the CD is likely directed toward sonographers having their first experience with carotid scanning. However, no preface or introduction is provided to explain for whom it is intended, or what the authors' goals were. I found this odd. In addition, although the graphics and images are good, there are a large number of mistakes in the audio track and the printed sections. Some are spelling or editing mistakes; for example, "Doppler" is never capitalized. Some are simply errors; the ratio of the peak systolic internal to common carotid velocity >3.7 is described as equivalent to an internal carotid artery stenosis >70%, but the written text says >3.2. In some places velocities are expressed in hertz and in other places, centimeters per second. Some concepts are not well explained, particularly given that overall, the text is relatively basic. What, for example, is the "Pourcelot index" in transcranial duplex imaging?

Overall, the mistakes detract from the book's effectiveness considerably. There are other higher-quality textbooks and multimedia tools available to learn carotid duplex scanning, many of which provide more in-depth information. As such, I cannot recommend its purchase with enthusiasm.

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Practical echocardiography of congenital heart disease from fetus to adult

David T. Linker; Philadelphia; 2001; Churchill Livingstone; 204 pages; $99.00.

This book provides a concise overview of echocardiography of congenital heart disease. Although this book covers a wide array of congenital defects, from those seen in the fetus to those seen in teenagers and adults, the author provides a practical approach to their evaluation.

In the preface, the author states that his intention was not to provide an encyclopedic text for the specialist interested in congenital heart disease, but to provide a book that he would have wanted when he started out, one that was more of a practical guide to congenital heart disease. Chapter one begins with the most basic concepts and theories behind echocardiography.

Chapter two provides a solid explanation of the physiology and nomenclature of congenital heart disease. The remainder of the book is divided by age group, beginning with the fetus, followed by the newborn and infant, the toddler, the teenager, and the adult. Within each chapter, the most probable potential diagnoses for that age group are presented. It is this organization by age group that makes the book unique among echocardiography manuals. For clinicians, this type of organization makes this manual useful, given that the potential differential diagnoses vary depending on the age of the patient.

Specific strengths of the book include its organizational style with box summaries of important key points, in addition to the tables and figures. The box summaries provide a quick reference to specific topics covered in the text, which not only reinforce the material but also allow for ease in reviewing the topics covered. Linker also provides many pearls for visualizing echocardiographic structures, such as his "right-hand rule," which describes the position of the ductus arteriosus. "If you hold your right hand out with the thumb, index, and middle fingers extended and the palm